Secrt. II-87—100,000—21-5-53.

FOOD (195 49) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No.	685
Dated	1-8-1949

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sub:- Establishment - Agricultural Department - Retrenched store keepers Provision of employment - Papers - Recorded.

SUMMARY

This file deals with the question of providing employment to the store keepers of the Agricultural Department who were retrenched from service consequent on the transfer of the work of distribution of groundnut cake to co-operative Societies.

2. On behalf of the retrenched store keepers, Sri A. Kameswara Rao, M.L.A. has made the following suggestions for providing employment to those men:-

(i) that they may be appointed as Fieldmen, if there are vacancies;

(ii) that such of them who cannot be absorbed in the Agricultural Department be appointed to suitable vacancies in other departments;

(iii) that the store-keepers may be absorbed as clerk in the Madras Ministerial Service though some of them do not possess the minimum general educational qualification; and

(iv) that they may be given two or three chances to qualify themselves by appearing for the examination (of S.S.L.C. Standard) conducted by the Madras Public Service Commission.

The above suggestions have been examined in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and the Public Department.

3. Suggestion (i) above: According to rule 7 of the Special Rules for the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Service a person will be eligible for appointment as Fieldman, if he possesses the minimum general educational qualification provided that if a sufficient number of candidates with minimum general educational qualification is not available, persons who have studied upto IV Form may be recruited after training. The Director of Agriculture has reported that the store-keepers are mostly men with III to IV Form qualification and that if they were to be appointed, the fieldman's training course will have to be resumed. He however says that whatever vacancies that arise in these posts will have to be given to Agricultural Graduates. He therefore considers that there is no chance of absorbing the store-keepers as fieldmen. It is proposed to accept the Director of Agriculture's recommendation.

4. Suggestion (ii) on p. 6 above. The Director of Agriculture has stated that he has already addressed the Director of Resettlement for giving priority to those retrenched store- keepers in the matter of finding employment. It is submitted that in pursuance of the orders of Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) on a similar representation, the Registrar of Co-o erative Societies has already been instructed to give preference to these Store Keepers for employment under Co-operative Societies The Director of Agriculture has since submitted a list of the names of storekeepers not possessing the general minimum educational Qualification, as far as available, and it is proposed to circularise the list to all heads of Departments with instructions to employ them in suitable vacancies. This is dealt within the linked file. No further action is necessary on this suggestion.

5. Suggestion (iii): In August, 1948, the Joint Director of Agriculture submitted proposals for replacing the lower paid storekeeper by Lower Division Clerks. The proposals were accepted by Government as the low paid Storekeepers were found responsible for large number of cases of misappro-

priation, defalcations etc., in the Depots. The Director of Agriculture has not supported the suggestion to reemploy them after relaxing the rules. It is proposed to accept the Director of Agriculture's recommendation.

6. Suggestion (iv) The minimum general educational qualification required for the appointment of Storekeepers is a pass in III Form. During 1937 when a large number of Storekeepers were appointed, many with the general minimum educational qualification were also selected. Rule 7-A of the Madras Ministerial Service & Rules provides for the promotion of such candidates to one out of every six substantive vacancies in L.D. Clerks posts, provided they had completed their probation as store-keepers. The Director of Agriculture has reported that there are many persons with more than five years' service who possess 'eligible' S.S.L.C. but are not qualified for appointment as Lower Division Clerks as they have not got the prescribed minimum marks in all the subjects. The Director of Agriculture has suggested that in order to avoid hardship and to ensure efficiency, such of these people who had acted as L.D. clerks for more than a year, be retained in service and allowed to pass Madras Public Service Commission examination so that they may be finally absorbed as regulalry Lower Division Clerks. The Public have stated that according to definition 2(9) of the Madras Public Service & Subordinate Service Rules such persons will retain their membership and will therefore be eligible to avail themselves of the concession granted under rule 10(a) (ii) and that therefore there is no objection to their regular appointment, after they had passed the Commission's Examination. They have however pointed out that they are liable to be ousted in preference to approved candidates, until they also become eligible for regular appointment.

The position thus is that the Director of Agriculture may continue such persons in service till they qualify themselves for appointment by passing the Commissioners' Examination, but without prejudice to the claims of approved candidates. The specific sanction of the Government will not be necessary for this.

7. With reference to "M" on p. 5 above, it is submitted that as all the posts of storekeepers have been converted into those of L.D. Clerks, the provisions of rule 7-A of the Madras Ministerial Service Rules will not, it seems, be operative any more. It may not therefore be necessary in the case of persons who had previously been storekeepers and are eligible for regular appointment as L.D. Clerks, to enforce the provisions of the rule in the matter of their confirmation.

8. The Public Department have suggested that the bulk of the Store-keepers retrenched are III Form men and that it may be possible to absorb some of them at least in the posts of Demonstration Maistry. The Director of Agriculture's remarks on the last suggestion are on p. 13 c.f. He considers that it is neither

...ible nor desirable to employ discharged storekeepers as demonstration maistries. . His suggestion may be accepted. For orders.

With reference to his letter on pp. 1-3 c.f., Sri Kameswara Rao may be informed of the action in the matter. A draft letter to Sri Kameswara Rao is submitted for approval.

Public (Services) may see before circulation.

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/True copy/

Public (Services) Department.

(Previous note at pages 4-5 ante)

The further notes of Development and the draft letter below may be perused and the file returned to that department.

(Sd) x x

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ASII (Notes from the middle of p. 6 above)

Development Dept.

Remarks of the Public (Services) above. For orders whether the draft letter may now issue.

(Sd) x x

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(Issued as Letter No. 125118 AI/48, dated 8.7.1949.)

The papers may now be recorded.

G.O.Ms.No. 685 Food, dt.1.8.49.

Establishment - Agricultural Department - Retrenched Store - Keepers - Provision of employment - Papers - Recorded.

(Sd) x x
Secretary to Government

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OFFICE ASSISTANT
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

mr. 23.9.